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Keynotes

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NOAA Celebrates 30 Years

NOAA will celebrate 30 years of dedicated service to the nation on October 3, 2000. Beginning in January 2000 (and continuing on to the actual anniversary date), a series of festive events will be held across the country that will celebrate NOAA's accomplishments, history, line office programs, and employees. Using the theme,



"Our seas and our skies, 30 years of excellence at NOAA," these events will help publicize and focus positive attention upon the valuable services and research NOAA performs in describing and predicting changes in the Earth's environment and in conserving and managing the nation's coastal and marine resources.

A 30th Anniversary web site has been established (<http://www.30th.noaa.gov>) to inform employees of upcoming activities. The site features profiles of veteran NOAA employees, a clickable NOAA timeline of historical information and interesting facts, plus "Special Events" and "NOAA in your State" sections that will be updated periodically.

Martin Luther King Day
January 17, 2000

Happy Birthday NOAA!



With the help of a few friends, Dr. James Baker, NOAA Administrator (center), cuts a birthday cake inaugurating the Kickoff Celebration of NOAA's 30th anniversary. Assisting Dr. Baker are (from left to right) James Kimpel, President of the American Meteorological Society and Director of NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory, Mary Glackin, Deputy Assistant Administrator for NOAA's Satellite Information Services, Jack Kelly, Director of NOAA's National Weather Service, and David Evans, Assistant Administrator for NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (photo courtesy of AMS).



HRD Expertise Assists in Winter Storm Forecasting

Expertise developed from the Hurricane Research Division's annual hurricane field program will be used to support research funded by the National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) aimed at improving forecasts of winter storms that impact the United States (primarily along the west coast but also including areas in the midwest and the east coast as well). HRD's Neal Dorst and Michael Black will participate in the NCEP's Winter Storms Reconnaissance Project beginning on January 15, 2000 and lasting for several weeks. The two scientists will travel to Anchorage, Alaska aboard the NOAA Gulfstream-IV jet aircraft where they will collect atmospheric soundings data from GPS dropsondes released by the Gulfstream-IV along flight tracks in the North Pacific Ocean and Gulf of Alaska. This is the third year of the project (the first two years were conducted out of Honolulu, Hawaii). Preliminary results from the previous two years show dramatic improvement of numerical forecasts for targeted areas in the U.S. While in Anchorage, the crew can expect temperatures from -20°F to 20°F.

Why is Managing Diversity Important?

Sim Aberson, Hurricane Research Division/NOAA Diversity Council Member

Organizations such as NOAA will encounter rapid changes in the first decades of the 21st century. By successfully adapting to these changes, NOAA hopes to be stronger and better able to meet its goals and objectives. The following are some of the reasons for NOAA's involvement in managing diversity.

Demographic changes: According to recent studies, three-quarters of new jobs created by 2010 will be filled by women and people of color. Women will soon make up about half of the nation's workforce, and a majority of mothers with pre-school children are already employed. One quarter of the workforce is projected to be people of color. Islam is now the fastest growing religion in the United States. One-sixth of all people in the U.S. are considered to be disabled. The workforce is aging as Baby Boomers age, and the presence of gay, lesbian, and bisexual employees is increasing. The changing face of the workforce challenges us to create a workplace that values differences in philosophy and practice.



Productivity: Numerous studies have shown that diverse work teams out-perform homogeneous work teams in products and process, both qualitatively and quantitatively. Diverse teams have broader solutions and are more innovative and creative. Efforts to support and increase workplace diversity have a positive effect on employee perception of equity and fairness and are linked to increased productivity and innovation.

Competition for talent: With shortages of skilled technical, professional, and clerical workers, competition for these workers increases. As the workforce pool becomes more diverse, organizations must compete for the limited pool of workers. These new workers will choose to work for organizations that aggressively attend to their work and family needs and in which they feel they are valued.

Next month I will discuss three more reasons for the Managing Diversity Initiative: Worklife quality, attrition, and the cost of discrimination.

Diversity Pizza Party

January 25, 2000

12:00 Noon

First-Floor Conference Room

The following presentations
will be made:

*"Women's Trends: The Changing
Status of Women in the
Atmospheric Sciences"*

(Sim Aberson)

*"What does the Future hold
for Women and Minorities in
the Atmospheric Sciences as
we Access those in the
Educational Pipeline?"*

(Howard Friedman/Fiona Horsfall)

*"The Federally Employed
Women's Training Program"*

(Joyce Berkley)

Call for Volunteers

- The American Littoral Society on Key Biscayne is seeking volunteers to help restore native plant communities at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park. Volunteers are needed for a variety of activities such as working in the greenhouse growing native plants, in the field removing non-native plants species, and planting new trees and shrubs. Tour guides are also needed for their educational programs. Training is provided and scheduling is flexible. Please contact Sacheen Tavares (program coordinator) of the American Littoral Society at (305) 361-0611 for more information or if interested in volunteering.

- Volunteers are needed to assist with the Science and Environmental Awareness (SEA) Bowl competition on January 28-29, 2000 at MAST Academy. This is a science-based competition for high school student teams from Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Monroe Counties. Contact Erica Van Coverden for more information (305-361-4541 or coverden@aoml.noaa.gov)

- Volunteers are needed to serve as members of judging teams (moderator, scientific judge, scorekeeper, rules judge, timekeeper) for the 3rd annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl South Florida Regional Competition on February 26-27, 2000. Contact Erica Van Coverden for more information (305-361-4541 or coverden@aoml.noaa.gov)

The RSMAS shuttle resumes its service to and from Vizcaya Metrorail Station, RSMAS, and the University of Miami's main campus on January 18, 2000. AOML staffers are welcome to use the shuttle free of charge, Monday through Friday. Shuttle service ends on April 28, 2000; no service is available during spring break on March 13-17, 2000. Here is an abbreviated schedule:

Depart Vizcaya Metrorail
Station for RSMAS:

8:15 AM
3:50 PM

Depart RSMAS for
Vizcaya Metrorail Station:

3:30 PM
5:30 PM

Welcome Aboard

Jason Dunion joins the staff of the Hurricane Research Division as a Research Meteorologist to work with Dr. Chris Landsea and Sam Houston on performing a re-analysis of the wind fields of catastrophic hurricanes that have impacted the United States since the mid-1940s. Jason recently completed a master's degree at the University of Wisconsin on satellite studies of hurricanes; his work is being funded by the Bermuda Biological Research Station's Risk Prediction Initiative.

Daniel Mendoza joins the staff of the Physical Oceanography Division to assist with project activities in the Drifter Data Assembly Center. He is a University of Miami senior majoring in Computer Information Systems.

Kevin Sullivan joins the staff of the Ocean Chemistry Division as a CIMAS Research Assistant to work with Dr. Rik Wanninkhof in the CO₂/Tracers Group. Kevin will be responsible for using "tracers" such as sulfur hexafluoride to perform tracer studies in the open ocean.

Farewell

Marc Bush, Secretary with the Physical Oceanography Division, resigned from AOML on December 17, 1999 after 12 years of service to accept an Administrative Assistant position with the Department of Agriculture in Ft. Pierce, Florida.

THANK YOU!!

The Miami Federal Executive Board and the Federal Women's Council would like to thank everyone at AOML for their generous contributions towards their holiday project:

Safespace: Make a Child's Special Wish Come True

AOML's contributions helped make it possible for the children of Safespace to receive gifts of bicycles, dolls, skates, Pokemon games, CD walkmans, gift certificates, and other toys, delivered to Safespace on December 17, 1999.

AOML Digs In for Nature Center's Work Day

AOML volunteers participated in restoration activities at Bear Cut Preserve of Crandon Park on Saturday, December 4, 1999 from 9 a.m. to noon (Bear Cut Preserve is the wooded area on Key Biscayne that can be seen from AOML when looking to the south). Seven AOMLers (Steven Feuer, Neal Dorst, Claudia Schmid, Craig Engler, Paul Leighton, Robert Castle, and Chris Landsea) spent a productive morning planting native inkberry plants along the dune line of Biscayne Bay and removing exotic, invasive plant species (Florida holly, lather-leaf, and Chinese almond) in conjunction with the Biscayne Nature Center. Chris Landsea, meteorologist with the Hurricane Research Division, organized AOML volunteers for the work-day event sponsored by the Crandon Park Nature Center.



Robert Castle transports inkberry plants to the dune line of Biscayne Bay for planting.



Claudia Schmid, Chris Landsea, and Craig Engler prepare to plant inkberry, a native south Florida plant species.

Congratulations

Tsung-Hung Peng and Rik Wanninkhof, senior scientists with Ocean Chemistry Division, are among the winners of the 1999 ERL Outstanding Scientific Paper Awards. They share the award jointly for their co-authored paper published in *Nature* (Peng, T.-H., R. Wanninkhof, J.L. Bullister, R.A. Feely, and T. Takahashi, Quantification of decadal anthropogenic CO₂ uptake in the ocean based on dissolved inorganic carbon measurements, *Nature*, 396-560-653, 1998).

Judy Gray, AOML Deputy Director, and Silvia Garzoli, Physical Oceanography Division Director, are among the candidates chosen to participate in OAR's Leadership Competencies Development Program. The program will provide training sessions and a series of developmental experiences over an 18-24 month period for candidates to enhance their executive/leadership skills. Their first training session will be held at the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia on January 19-21, 2000.

Howard Friedman, Deputy Director of the Hurricane Research Division, received an award from NOAA's Equal Employment Opportunity Council on December 3, 1999 in recognition of his leadership on the Council's Under-Representation Subcommittee.

Linda Pikula, Senior Librarian with the National Environmental, Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) Library at AOML, received a Department of Commerce Silver Medal as part of a NESDIS group award for helping to develop NOAALINC, a library and information network that provides desktop access to the publications of 28 NOAA libraries. The Silver Medal, awarded in recognition of extraordinary achievements that support the Department of Commerce's mission, was presented on December 14, 1999 at the annual NOAA Awards Ceremony in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Andrea Farmer, wife of Michael Farmer, Deputy Director of AOML's Ocean Chemistry Division, has been named as Teacher of the Year at Robert Morgan Vocational Technical Institute in Miami, Florida. Ms. Farmer has been active in the dental assistant field for 20 years.

Travel

John Proni and Terry Nelsen will meet with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel in Baltimore, Maryland on January 3-4, 2000 to discuss cooperative projects in the Chesapeake Bay. They will also attend a Dredged Material Assessment and Management Seminar sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in San Diego, California on January 11-13, 2000.

Sim Aberson, Howard Friedman, Mark Swenson, Kristina Katsaros, and Eric Uhlhorn will attend the 80th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Long Beach, California on January 10-14, 2000.

Chris Landsea will attend the EQECAT Innovations in Catastrophe Management Conference in Ft. Myers, Florida on January 17, 2000 and make a presentation entitled "Hurricanes: Past, present, and future."

Rik Wanninkhof will perform a site review of greenhouse gas programs at four laboratories located throughout Canada for the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Ocean on January 16-23, 2000.

Molly Baringer, Tsung-Hung Peng, and Rik Wanninkhof will attend the American Geophysical Union's Ocean Sciences Meeting in San Antonio, Texas on January 23-28, 2000.

Frank Marks has been invited to make a presentation at the American Association of Physics Teachers Winter 2000 Meeting in Orlando, Florida on January 19, 2000. He will also visit the Melbourne National Weather Service Office on January 20-21, 2000 to work with Scott Spratt on analysis of the Doppler radar data sets collected from reconnaissance flights into Hurricanes Bonnie and Earl.

Sim Aberson will attend a NOAA Diversity Council Meeting in Silver Spring, Maryland on January 21, 2000.

Howard Friedman will attend a NOAA Equal Employment Opportunity Council Meeting in Silver Spring, Maryland on January 28, 2000.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS 1999



Keynotes is published monthly by the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted prior to the last week of each month to ensure inclusion in the following month's edition. Please address all correspondence to: Office of the Director, 4301 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149. Contributions may also be submitted by fax at (305) 361-4421 or by email (derr@aoml.noaa.gov).

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World-Wide Web Internet address:
<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/keynotes>